

Choosing green. Creating impact.

Our physical presence and outreach extends to the farthest corners of the country. With such wide-scale operations, we are aware of the impact we have on the environment and hence take all necessary measures for the responsible consumption of resources. We continue to invest in best-in-class technologies to optimise our operations, minimise our ecological impact and cut down on our overall carbon footprint.

Capital linkage



Stakeholder linkage



Our direct environmental footprint is attributed to the resources we consume to effectively run our operations and serve our customers and other stakeholders. This primarily includes purchased electricity and the use of diesel generator sets at our branches, along with the use of paper in banking forms, statements, and other such documents.

The Policy on Environmental Management guides our strategy and action towards being an environmentally responsible organisation.

➔ The Policy can be accessed online at https://www.axisbank.com/docs/default-source/default-document-library/axis-bank_policy_on_environmental_management_2020.pdf.

We are committed to following industry best practices, adopting pertinent technologies, and investing in solutions that can rationalise our resource requirements and lower our overall environmental footprint.

As the sector continues to move at a rapid pace towards digitisation and digitalisation, we are investing in large-scale, strategic initiatives that can not only make our systems and processes more agile and efficient, but also enhance the experience of our customers. The Bank is currently discussing a pathway for reducing carbon emissions from its own operations at the ESG committee of the Board.

We have set a target of 5% reduction in intensity emissions per employee year-on-year and are working towards aligning our interventions to achieving this.

Energy Consumption (terajoules)

	Electricity Purchased	Electricity Generated*
FY 2019-20	737.75	102.49
FY 2020-21	859.98	87.17
FY 2021-22	745.30	171.13

* This includes electricity generated through diesel consumption and installed renewable energy capacity at the Bank having generated approximately 171,130 GJ of electricity.

Energy Intensity (GJ per FTE)

	Direct Energy	Indirect Energy
FY 2019-20	1.38	9.95
FY 2020-21	1.11	10.98
FY 2021-22	1.99	8.68

GHG Emissions (1000 tonnes of CO₂e)

	Direct Emissions [#]	Indirect Emissions ^{##}
FY 2019-20	6.25	168.04
FY 2020-21	5.56	195.88
FY 2021-22	13.85	163.55

*As a service organisation, the emissions such as ozone-depleting substances (ODS), Nitrogen oxides (NOX) and Sulphur oxides (SOX) and other air emissions are relatively not materially significant.

[#] Direct emissions are scope 1 emissions which includes CO₂, N₂O and CO₂e emissions from Axis Bank's diesel usage in its large offices including both owned and leased branches. The month-wise diesel consumption data is extracted from the Caphub Team under the Finance & Accounts Department, which handles monthly accounts and billing. The cost of diesel consumed pan bank is converted in quantities consumed by using state level diesel prices. Further, the average rate per litre diesel is calculated as per IOCL rates for diesel every month for 4 metro cities. The emission factors and GWP (Global Warming Potential) values have been taken from IPCC guidelines. The Bank has used financial control approach for measuring and managing these emissions, hence diesel consumed by leased branches are covered under Scope 1 category. We plan to also include emissions resulting from refrigerant leaks and use of fire extinguisher in drills in Scope 1 in the future and are putting necessary measurement systems in place.

^{##} Indirect emissions are scope 2 emissions which include CO₂ emissions from electricity consumed by Axis Bank. The month-wise electricity consumption data is extracted from Caphub Team under the Finance & Accounts Department, which handles monthly accounts and billing. The cost of electricity consumed pan bank is converted in quantities of electricity consumed by using state level tariffs. The emission factors have been taken from CEA's (Central Electrical Authority) CO₂ database, version 17. The Bank have used financial control approach for measuring and managing these emissions.

GHG Emissions Intensity (tCO₂e per FTE)

	Indirect Emissions	Direct Emissions
FY 2018-19	2.27	0.11
FY 2019-20	2.27	0.08
FY 2020-21	2.50	0.07
FY 2021-22	1.91	0.16

*Above consumption and emission data are pertaining to PAN India Axis offices and branches.

Scope 3 GHG emissions, related to Employee Commuting (we provide shuttle bus or traveller services for employees) were 298.45 tonnes of CO₂e and Business Travel (Business Air Travel and Employee Local

Conveyance for official visits to offices/branches) were 1,220.14 and 1,859.20 tonnes of CO₂e respectively.

Scope 3 GHG emissions also include purchased goods and services (paper consumption) which was 3,776 tonnes of CO₂e. We are committed to strengthening our processes for monitoring and reporting additional Scope 3 emission categories.

We strive to make continuous efforts towards reducing our Scope 3 emissions. Post easing out of COVID-19 restrictions, air travel has again increased. Furthermore, we are actively imbibing digital modes into our business and operations. By expanding the scope of our digital lending activity, we have managed to reduce the printing of stationery items in every business unit.

(Restatement: The Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions, associated with Scope 3 - Employee Commuting (Company provided shuttle bus or traveller services for employees) are restated as 339 tCO₂e against the 2021 figures released in Sustainability Report 2020-21. The restatement is only for the above-mentioned category of emissions. This restatement has been assured under third party verification process for this year.)

KEY INITIATIVES TOWARDS ACHIEVING RESOURCE EFFICIENCY

We are committed to investing in digital solutions and multi-pronged energy-conserving initiatives to further our commitment to achieving greater environmental efficiency in our operations.

During the year, our corporate head office, Axis House Mumbai, achieved Platinum certification Under the IGBC (Indian Green Building Council) Green Existing Building Rating System for 'Energy and Operational Efficiency'. This makes us the only private sector bank to achieve such a Rating.



ENERGY

Key interventions in place or scaled up during the reporting to achieving greater environmental efficiency in our operations.

- Implementation of Solar energy projects across select Axis Bank branches and offices, aggregating to ~7.05 MW, helped save ~3,066 tCO₂e of carbon emissions in FY 2021-22.
- We are procuring solar power of ~1 MW (3.50 lakhs units p.a.) under Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) Model since FY 2019-20 for our Data Centre in Bengaluru. We have consumed 39.76 lakhs units of electricity for our Data Centre in FY 2021-22, which helped save ~3,141 tCO₂e of carbon emissions.
- IOT-based monitoring of power generated through solar installations across rooftops in 245+ branch locations.
- In FY 2021-22, the implementation of CEMS in 600 branches helped save 38.87 lakhs units of electricity, which resulted in saving ~3,071 tCO₂e of carbon emissions.
- Existing conventional light fittings replaced with LED fittings in 1,789 branches PAN India, helping save 67.59 lakhs units of electricity and thus ~5,340 tCO₂e of carbon emissions.
- Maintenance of unity power factor through APFC panels in auto mode for optimum use of power at Axis House Mumbai and Axis House Noida.
- Installation of motion sensors for workstations and common area lighting at Axis House, Mumbai and Regional Office Bengaluru
- We have installed Electrical Vehicle charging facility at our offices in Mumbai and Noida, and our back-office at Mumbai.



<EV Charging station installed at Axis House, Worli, Mumbai>



CENTRALISED ENERGY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (CEMS)

In FY 2021-22, we utilised a total of 916,430 GJ of energy, out of which 81.32% was grid electricity, consumed primarily at our offices, branches and ATM locations. Since FY 2014-15, we had adopted the Centralised Energy Management System (CEMS) at our large branches and offices as a cloud-based solution that remotely controls and manages temperatures of AC systems as well as pertinent lighting installations, thereby rationalising electricity consumption and maintaining ambient temperatures. Since its implementation at 246 branches in 2015, we estimate that CEMS has helped reduce our consumption by ~10% from the baseline in those branches where it is installed.

As on March 2022, CEMS is implemented in 600 branches, with electricity savings of ~38.86 lakhs units and monetary savings of ~₹3.42 crores in FY 2021-22, on an annualised basis. ~3,887 Mwh energy was saved through these installations cumulatively in FY 2021-22, helping avoid 3,070.56 tCO₂e of emissions.

38.86 LAKHS UNITS
Electricity savings

3,887 MWh
Total energy savings

3,070.56 tCO₂e
Reduction in emissions

ENERGY CONSERVATION

We are striving to scale our existing commitments and take new initiatives that can rationalise our operational carbon footprint, while also ensuring that the maintenance of our existing infrastructure and future expansion is greener in nature. Key initiatives include:

- Lithium-based battery backup provided for all new UPS installations and existing replacement
- Inverter-based air conditioning machines with green refrigerant gas (R32/R410A) provided for all new installations and existing replacements
- Complete replacement of conventional lights to LED lights at all Branches/Offices
- Electrical vehicle Charging facility available at large buildings i.e Axis House, Mumbai, Andheri MIDC & Axis House, Noida

PAPER AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

- Conversion of 2.31 MT food/wet waste at Axis House in Mumbai, into compost through composting machine, used in landscaping/gardening of premises.
- 23.83 MT of dry waste such as newspapers, shredded documents, dry paper cups, cardboard boxes and tissues collected at all large offices across India, were sent for recycling.
- Collection and disposal of 83.12 tonnes of e-waste during FY 2021-22 from all large offices and branches PAN India through government-authorized vendors.

We have expanded our reporting boundary for paper and waste management in this reporting period. In addition to reporting on waste data from our headquarters, Axis House in Mumbai, we are also reporting data from our nine large offices across India. E-waste disposal continues to be reported at a pan-Bank level.

As highlighted in the 'Doing Business Sustainably' section of this Report, the implementation of strategic business initiatives such as Saksham, and the growth in digital banking products and services have also contributed to significant paper savings.

Together, these initiatives have resulted in a significant amount of energy savings in FY 2021-22, avoiding 9745 MT of GHG emissions. Our host of initiatives comprises solar power generation, renewable power purchase arrangements, implementation of CEMS, procurement of wheat straw-based paper, and digital banking services such as Saksham initiative and issuances of e-statements and e-welcome kits under digital banking products and services.

WATER CONSUMPTION

As a service sector organisation, our primary use of water is for drinking and ensuring the hygiene of our employees, as well as for landscaping at some of our large offices. We strive to follow best practices for efficient water use across our premises. Interventions in place for water conservation include:

- Daily re-cycling capacity of 110 KL of water through Sewage Treatment Plant at Axis House, Mumbai
- Use of wash basin sensors, aerators and bio-blocks in washrooms at select large offices
- Rain water harvesting capacity of ~2,000 KL annually at Axis House, Mumbai